

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.72**

(Doc. No. 2191sj05.doc)

TO: The Honorable Greg Ryberg, Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee
FROM: Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: Harry Bell, Rodney Grizzle
DATE: March 11, 2005 SBD: 2005305

AUTHOR: Senator Ritchie PRIMARY CODE CITE: 56-1-176
SUBJECT: High School Students - Driver's Licenses

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 72 would amend various sections of state statutes so as to, among other things, require school attendance for individuals under seventeen before issuance or reinstatement of a drivers' license. Schools would be required to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and parents when a child becomes chronically truant at which time the student's driver's license would be suspended unless a waiver is sought and granted.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

State Department of Education (SDE)

Section 56-1-176 would require school districts to release attendance records to DMV when a student is applying for a beginner's permit, conditional license, special restricted license, or a regular driver's license. Annual cost to the districts can be estimated at \$60,000 assuming \$300 for each of the state's 200 high schools.

The Bill also requires school districts to notify parents when a student has accumulated a certain number of unexcused absences. Meetings and or hearings may be necessary to consider petitions for waiver and reinstatement of license. SDE estimates each high school would need an additional .25 FTE each. Total cost for additional staff can be estimated at \$850,000. Postage associated with notification can be estimated at \$37,000 annually.

Section 56-1-176 (D) and (F) require the districts to notify DMV of excessive truancy and the granting of waivers electronically whenever possible. SDE estimates non-recurring cost of \$750,000 associated with establishing a secure electronic reporting system for transferring student information. This cost includes software development and system updating and modification.

Total first year cost can be estimated at \$1,697,000 if an electronic reporting system is established between the districts and DMV. Annual recurring cost is estimated at \$947,000. The impact on the General Fund of the State is at the General Assembly's discretion. This initiative could be funded with State General Funds and/or local school districts funds.

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

The Department indicates there will be a one-time cost of approximately \$57,173 in programming costs. The cost would be for 520 hours of programming at \$110 per hour cost. The impact would be on the General Fund of the State and/or agency other funds.

Approved by:



Don Addy
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